

LANCASTER
Urban Sanitary Authority.

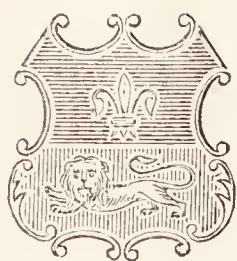
MEDICAL OFFICER'S
REPORT

FOR

1895.

LANCASTER :
PRINTED BY EATON & BULFIELD, KING STREET.

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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY FOR THE BOROUGH
OF LANCASTER.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

As required by the Local Government Board I have much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report upon the Sanitary condition of the Borough of Lancaster for the year 1895, with tables and statistics showing the work accomplished during the year, and also drawing your attention to one or two matters which require consideration.

The area of the town is 1680 acres, and the density of the population about 21.32 per acre.

The total population of Lancaster, including the six principal institutions was estimated at the middle of 1895 to be 35,830, and the population exclusive of the six principal institutions at the same period is computed at 32,948.

The total number of deaths occurring in the town in 1895 was 750—this is equal to a gross annual death rate of 20·93 per 1000 of population.

During the year 1894, the gross number of deaths in the town amounted to 618, being equal to an annual death rate of 17·84 per 1000 of population.

The number of deaths occurring in the town during 1895 (excluding the six principal institutions referred to before, which are the Infirmary, County Asylum, Ripley Hospital, the Castle, Workhouse and Bowerham Barracks) was 516—equal to an annual corrected death rate of 15·66 per 1000 of population.

Deaths during 1894 in the same district numbered 413, equal to an annual corrected death rate of 13·00 per 1000 of population.

Of the 516 deaths occurring in the town, 259 were those of males, and 257 those of females—138 occurred in infants under 1 year of age—65 in children 1 and under 5 years—197 in persons 5 and under 65 years, and 116 in persons over 65 years of age.

The deaths of children under 1 year of age numbered 138—equal to an annual infantile death rate of 147 per 1000 registered births. This is an increase of 26 on the corresponding deaths occurring during the year 1894; the number registered in that year being 112, which is equal to an annual infantile death rate of 111 per 1000 registered births.

The deaths of children 1 year old and under 5 years number 65, an increase of 25 over the year 1894.

The number of children dying under 5 years of age is 203—this is an increase of 51 on the previous year. I may point out, however, that the death rate of children under 5 years of age is not relatively as large as in previous years with the exception of 1894.

The following table will show the numbers of the aforesaid deaths during a period of the past seven years : --

	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895
Deaths under 1 year...	164	154	153	150	165	112	138
Deaths 1 year and under 5.....}	130	77	78	92	100	40	65
Total deaths under 5...	294	231	231	242	265	152	203
Total deaths of all ages	537	532	553	530	528	413	516

The deaths of people over the age of 5 and under 65 years are again considerably increased, as are also, but to a lesser degree, those of persons over 65 years.

During 1895, the following deaths have occurred in the six principal institutions :—

The County Asylum	158
The Infirmary	36
The Union Workhouse	39
The Castle	1

	234

During 1894, the numbers were as follows :—

The County Asylum	153
The Infirmary	26
The Union Workhouse	25
The Bowerham Barracks	2

	206

showing an increase of 28.

It must not be forgotten that the year 1894 was of a very exceptional character. The death rates in that year show a very remarkable diminution all over England, and one could hardly expect that such a diminution would be maintained. It will be seen, however, that the death rate for this year is, after all, considerably below the rates for previous years.

Year.	Gross Death Rate.	Corrected Death Rate.
1888	22.98	17.32
1889	24.90	19.62
1890	24.40	19.33
1891	23.73	19.52
1892	23.32	17.95
1893	22.55	17.23
1894	17.84	13.00
1895	20.93	15.66

Notification of Infectious Disease.

1535 cases of Infectious Disease were reported to me during 1895.

Scarlet Fever	62
Diphtheria	8
Enteric Fever.....	28
Puerperal Fever.....	1
Measles	1405
Rotheln	31
	1535

Of these cases, Scarlet Fever 1, Enteric Fever 2, and Measles 59, occurred in the Institutions of the town.

During the year 1894 the number of notified cases of Infectious Disease was as follows :—

Smallpox	1
Scarlet Fever	69
Diphtheria	7
Enteric Fever	47
Puerperal Fever	1
Measles	46
	171

Deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases in 1895 were as follows :—

Enteric Fever	3
Diarrhœa	18
Diphtheria.....	2
Measles	20
	43

this equals an annual zymotic death-rate of 1·30 per 1,000 of population.

Last year the zymotic deaths numbered namely :—

Scarlet Fever	5
Puerperal Fever	1
Diphtheria.....	3
Diarrhœa	16
Enteric Fever	2
	27

equal to an annual death-rate of ·85 per 1,000 of population.

I stated in my Report for 1894 that many sanitarians consider that the true death-rate of a town was more truly represented by a comparison of the deaths of children under 5 years of age with the number

of births. I also gave the figures for 1894, and as I consider them of great importance, I give them again, with the figures worked out for 1895 :—

	1894	1895
Deaths under 5 years of age	152	203
Births	1,008	936
Percentage of Deaths to Births	15·07	21·68
Population	31,759	32,948
Total Deaths	413	516
Death-rate	13·00	15·66

Having in previous years tabulated the causes of the great sacrifice of infant life which takes place in this country, and to which Lancaster contributes its proportion, I do not propose to state them again this year. I feel that having pointed out the causes, I must leave the matter to the good sense of the people, and especially of the mothers, who, I hope, will do all in their power to check this great waste of life which amounts to a national calamity.

If in one isolated year we were visited by some pestilence which carried off a large number of children every one would be alarmed, and would do all in their power to prevent it ; but as the complaints are every day ailments, and we have gradually become accustomed to it, the alarm does not become sufficiently general to awake the nation.

BIRTHS.—The births registered during 1895 number 936—469 males and 467 females. This is equal to an annual birth-rate of 28·40 per 1,000 of population.

In the year 1894 1008 births were registered—526 males and 482 females—this being equal to an annual birth-rate of 31·49 per 1,000 of population.

It will be observed that the birth-rate has rather rapidly declined during the last two years.

I am happy to state that during the past year no case of SMALLPOX has occurred.

SCARLET FEVER.—During 1895 62 cases of this disease were reported to me. Of these 61 occurred in the town, and one in the County Asylum. All these cases recovered. This is a pleasing contrast to the year 1894, when 69 cases were reported with 5 deaths.

Of the above cases 32 were treated in the Sanatorium, and although the result both from home treatment and from treatment in the Sanatorium could of course not be better, still I am confident those cases treated in the Sanatorium in most instances have a better chance of recovery than those treated at home.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Only 28 cases of Enteric Fever have been reported to me during the past year. Of these 26 occurred in the town, 1 in the County Asylum, and 1 in the Bowerham Barracks—4 of these cases ended fatally—equal to a case mortality of 14·28 percentage of attacks.

During the year 1894, 47 cases came under notice, and 2 deaths were registered. Of the 28 cases, 12 were treated in the Sanatorium, the rest at home.

There is thus a decrease of 19 cases on the year 1894, which is a matter for congratulation.

However good the drainage system of a town may be, and no matter how pure the water, and in Lancaster we are well provided for in both ways, Enteric Fever will present itself, but for a town of the age and size of Lancaster, I think we have been exceptionally fortunate.

As I mentioned in my last Annual Report, many cases of influenza present, during their course, symptoms not unlike Enteric Fever, and these I am afraid are sometimes returned as Enteric Fever in the early stages of the disease. More than one such case has come under my notice, and no doubt many others have happened. These cases being returned as Enteric, of course swell the total, and we are credited with more Enteric Fever than we possess.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—1 case of this disease has been reported this year which happily recovered. In 1894, 1 was reported which proved fatal. On referring to my previous reports, I find that I have never made any remarks upon the subject, which can hardly be very extensively treated of in a report of a semi-public character. Suffice it to say, that it is essentially a disease which can be entirely prevented by a strict adherence to the rules of cleanliness. The disease is attributed to a bacillus of a benign character, but which, in the presence of decomposing animal fluids, within a few hours, takes on the most malignant character, and causes this frequently fatal illness. The bacillus is one of common occurrence, and it can be hindered from acquiring malignancy by preventing the decomposition of animal fluid.

MEASLES.—One thousand four hundred and five cases of measles have been notified during the year 1895. Of these cases 20 have died, equal to a case mortality of 1·42 percentage of attacks. The disease was imported from Morecambe in the latter months of 1894, and during the course of the epidemic, 1449 cases have been reported, of which 20 died—this is equal to a case mortality of 1·38 percentage of attacks, which may be taken as showing that the disease was of a mild type.

DIPHTHERIA.—8 cases of this disease were reported to me during 1895. They did not occur in any particular locality of the town, and appeared to be separate in origin. In a few cases sanitary defects were found and remedied, but the disease did not appear to be epidemic. In one case reported as diphtheria, the mucus from the throat was

submitted to the authorities at Owen's College and to the Institute of Preventive Medicine, and no Klebs or Loeffleur's bacilli found, the case proving to be one of Thrush.

Having obtained permission from the Sanitary Committee I propose to offer to the Medical Attendant, in each reported case, the opportunity of confirming his diagnosis by submitting specimens to bacteriological examination.

WHOOPING COUGH.—This disease not being notifiable in Lancaster, no cases have been reported to me. No deaths from this cause have been registered, but I have seen and heard of cases of the disease, some of which were of a severe type.

DIARRHŒA.—Thirty-six deaths are registered as being due to this cause during 1895, but of these, 18 only appear to be of a zynotic character, the rest being differentiated by such words as tubercular marasmus, &c. Thirty-two of these cases occurred in the town, and 4 in the County Asylum, where almost all deaths are verified by post-mortem examination.

PHTHISIS.—The deaths of 79 persons were registered as due to this cause in 1895. Forty-three occurred in the town, 31 in the County Asylum, 1 in the Infirmary, and 4 in the Workhouse. In the year 1894 there were 54 such cases—32 in the Borough, 19 in the County Asylum, 2 in the Infirmary, and 1 in the Workhouse. The death-rate for 1895 from this cause is 2·20 ; in 1894 it was 1·55 per 1,000 of population.

It cannot be too generally known that owing to the researches of Dr. Sheridan Delepine, it has been established beyond doubt that the bacillus of Tuberculosis can live and multiply under suitable and common conditions outside the body of an animal. This is a very serious matter, and one requiring the attention of all Sanitarians, especially so when one remembers that the contaminated discharges of many animals including man himself are deposited in the public thoroughfares and may then be readily blown into a place suitable for their further reproduction.

BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA, AND PLEURISY.—177 deaths from this cause were reported in 1895—equal to a death-rate of 4·93 per 1,000 of population. Last year there were 113 such deaths.

INFLUENZA has been registered as the cause of 17 deaths. I suppose this to mean the Russian type of the disease, which is still with us, and is responsible indirectly for far more deaths than appear in the returns.

THE SANATORIUM.—During 1895, 44 cases have been treated at the Sanatorium, with 1 death. Of these 44 cases, 32 were Scarlet Fever and 12 Enteric Fever. The death occurred in the early part of the year, and was due to Enteric Fever.

The work of the institution is carried on most satisfactorily, and no complaints have reached me.

8 cases were attended by myself, and the rest by their own Medical Attendant.

The Sanatorium was visited by me 83 times during 1895.

The Disinfector has apparently answered well and worked satisfactorily during the year, and is in good order.

The opinions of Sanitarians upon the subject of Disinfectors appears to be undergoing a change. Formerly high pressure steam was thought the best, then opinions favoured low pressure, and now a machine is on the market which disinfects by current steam, and this is stated to be the only efficient disinfector.

The destruction of the old houses in China Lane has had the effect of causing the inmates to seek fresh abodes—several lodging-houses having been pulled down. To meet the want thus created, the lodging-house belonging to the Corporation has been enlarged and placed under the charge of a person responsible to the Corporation.

The public Swimming Bath and Gymnasium both continue to do good service. The addition of a Turkish bath much increasing the usefulness of the former.

The Sewerage system still continues to perform its work well, and I have nothing further to add to what was stated last year.

The Scavenging of the town being in the hands of the Corporation the work is performed well and carefully, and with a due regard to the convenience of the inhabitants.

The Water Supply sustains its high character, and we are looking forward to the completion of the new reservoir, when we shall have such an amount of water stored as will enable us to regard with complacency the driest Summer.

The Inspection of Food. Thirty-two samples of meat and fish have been examined by me—2 were passed for food—16 were passed in part and in part condemned and destroyed, and in 14 cases the meat or fish was wholly condemned and destroyed. In one only of these cases was it necessary to take Magisterial proceedings, when a fine of £5 and costs was inflicted.

It is in the cattle which are slaughtered at the public abattoir that I find most frequently domestic animals suffering from tuberculosis. This tuberculosis is communicable to man in various ways, and some legislation is called for on the subject. Annually for some years I have noted the effects of this disease in my Reports and the articles in the Medical and Sanitary journals contain many interesting and important observations on the subject.

INSPECTION.—The Insanitary Dwellings Sub-Committee has again this year inspected the various yards and back streets in the town, which upon a former occasion we found to be capable of improvement. The improvements which have been made were noted, and a long list of further desirable alterations was compiled—planning out work which will take some years to accomplish.

PUBLIC URINALS.—The public urinals have been kept in good order and clean. The number also has been added to in the past year. The one at the top of Penny Street is an ornamental one, and not likely to be overlooked.

INQUESTS.—In the cases of 44 deaths (28 males and 16 females) no medical certificates were forthcoming. In 23 cases, inquests were held, and in the remaining 21 the Coroner issued his certificate.

COWSHEDS.—The Cowsheds and Dairies are inspected by the Police, and are, I believe, kept in good order.

CANAL BOATS have been visited 91 times and found in good order.

BAKEHOUSES.—Bakehouses visited 45 times, and found clean, and in good order.

ANALYSIS.—Thirty-three samples of Food, &c., were taken by the Police and submitted to the Borough Analyst. He reported all genuine but one. Proceedings were taken, but the Somerset House authorities certified the sample to be genuine, so the prosecution fell through.

AMBULANCE.—The provision of an ambulance instead of a cab should engage the attention of the Committee; also provision for removing clean and infected clothing to the Disinfector.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. PARKER.

March 14th, 1896.

TABLE B.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Urban Sanitary District of LANCASTER; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

[illegible]

TABLE C.

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1895.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF LANCASTER.

Area in Statute Acres...1,680. Population, Census, 1891...31,034. Population, Estimated, 1895...35,830.

Name of Medical Officer of Health...G. R. PARKER. Salary...£110.

Births Registered { Male..... 469 } Total ... 936 | Deaths Registered { Male..... 408 } Total ... 750

Female... 467 } Female... 342 }

Birth Rate.....	28.40.
Death Rate	20.93.
Rate of Infant Deaths, under 1 year, to 1,000 Births	147.
Death Rate from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, per 1,000 of population.....	1.30.
Diseases Prevalent	Measles.
Period	All the year.
What Action taken?	Inspection and Disinfection.
Any Schools Closed?	All Elementary.
If so, for what Disease?.....	Measles.
What is the Character of the Hospital Accommodation?	Quite satisfactory.
Is it Joint or otherwise?.....	Otherwise.
No. of Beds?	About 32.
What were the Cases Treated	Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever.

Deaths in Hospital
 From what causes ?.....
 How is Disinfection carried out ?.....
 Apparatus used ?
 Is the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act in force ?
 Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the
 Act notifiable ?
 If so, what are they ?
 What is the character of House Accommodation ?...
 Has any action been taken under "The Housing of
 the Working Classes Act, 1890." ?
 Water Supply
 Is Scavenging carried out satisfactorily ?
 By Sanitary Authority or Contract ?.....
 How is the Refuse disposed of ?.....
 What is the character of Drainage and the form of
 Sewage Disposal ?
 Canal Boats
 What is the condition of the Bakehouses ?
 Slaughter House ?
 Lodging Houses ?
 Are they Registered ?
 Are the Daries, Cowsheds, and Milkshops periodi-
 cally inspected ?

1.
 Enteric Fever.
 By steam.
 Washington Lyons.
 No ; Private Act, 1880.
 No.
 None.
 Good.
 Inspection.
 Excellent.
 Yes.
 By Sanitary Authority.
 Carted to a "tip," away from the town.
 Water carriage into tidal portion of river.
 91 visits ; all found in good order.
 45 visits ; clean, and in good order.
 Public abattoir.
 10. One proceeded against, conviction obtained.
 Yes.
 Yes, by police.

Have any Regulations been made by your Authority under the Order of the Local Government Board?

Have the Factories and Workshops been inspected, and with what result?.....

Can you express any opinion as to the effect of Factory Labour on the Operatives?.....

Sale of Food and Drugs Act :—

No. of Samples purchased

Prosecutions

Food unfit for Human Consumption

Amount seized?

River Pollution.....

Any Special Report of Medical Officer of Health during the year?

Department of Inspectors of Nuisances :—

No. of Notices served

No. of Legal Proceedings taken, and result

Smoke :—

Do you suffer from this form of nuisance?

No. of Observations

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result

Give approximately the number of tall chimneys in connection with mills or large works

Has the Authority adopted—

(a) “The Infectious Disease (Prevention Act, 1890” ?

(b) “The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890” ?

No.

Yes; 9.

No.

33.
1, discharged.

32.

None.

No.

1005.
2 convictions.

Slightly.

32.
None.

About 28.

No; Private Act, 1880, in force.

Yes.

TABLE D.

Showing details of Statistics of last four years.

	1892	1893	1894	1895
Gross Population of Lancaster.....	32,317	33,524	34,631	35,830
Total Deaths	756	756	618	750
Gross Death-rate.....	23.32	22.55	17.84	20.93
Population (less 6 Institutions).....	29,535	30,642	31,749	32,948
Total Deaths in Boro' (less 6 Institutions)	530	528	413	516
Corrected Death-rate	17.95	17.23	13.00	15.66
Deaths of Males	253	254	202	259
Deaths of Females	277	274	211	257
Deaths of Infants under 1 year.....	150	164	112	138
Death-rate of ditto per 1000 registered births	158	166	111	147
Deaths of Children 1 and under 5 years...	92	100	40	65
Total Deaths under 5 years of age	242	266	152	203
Deaths of Persons 5 and under 65 years...	168	139	158	197
Deaths of Persons over 65 years	120	124	103	116
Number of Zymotic Deaths	80	87	27	43
Zymotic Death-rate	2.52	2.56	.85	1.30
Number of Births	947	991	1,008	936
Birth-rate	32.08	32.34	31.49	28.40
Births of Males	511	491	526	469
Births of Females	436	500	382	467

TABLE E.

A table shewing the number of cases of Zymotic Disease treated at home and at the Sanatorium, and comparing the results of the four years 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895.

	1892	1893	1894	1895
Total cases notified.....	997	532	171	1535
Total cases treated at home	864	454	119	1491
Recoveries (treated at home)	794	428	111	1467
Deaths (treated at home)	70	26	8	24
Total cases removed to Sanatorium.....	133	78	52	44
Recoveries (Sanatorium)	122	73	49	44
Deaths (Sanatorium)	11	5	3	1
Sanatorium cases treated by M.O.H.	52	18	17	8
Sanatorium cases treated by their own medical man	81	60	35	32
Total recoveries	916	501	168	1511
Total deaths.....	81	31	11	25
Visits made to Sanatorium by M.O.H. ...	175	131	127	83

TABLE F.

Shewing causes of Death of Infants under one year old
during the years 1894 and 1895.

	1894	1895
Diarrhœa, Gastro-Enteritis, Cholera infantum, &c.....	21	35
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	14	21
Convulsions	26	15
Marasmus, Malnutrition, Debility, Inanition.....	20	20
Tabes Mesenterica, and Tubercular Disease of Intestines	3	1
Meningitis, Hydrocephalus, and Cerebral Congestion ...	4	5
Dentition	1	1
Measles	...	6
Premature Birth	9	22
Asphyxia	1	...
Icterus Neonatorum	1	...
Intussusception of Bowel	1	...
Atelectasis.....	...	1
Whooping Cough	3	...
Spina Bifida	1	...
Malformation of Heart	2	1
Nuperferate Anus.....	...	1
Injuries received during Birth	1	...
Drowned	1	...
Found dead	2	1
Natural causes	1	...
Spasm of Glottis and Croup	...	2
Ulceration of Scrotum	...	1
Erysipelas	...	1
Syphilis	...	1
Hemorrhage from Bowels	...	1
Gangrene	...	1
Suppurative Peritonitis	...	1

TABLE G.

Shewing rainfall each month, number of days on which rain fell, and highest and lowest quantity registered in 24 hours, during the year 1895.

Month.	Days in the month on which rain fell.	Rainfall in inches.
January	20	2·34
February.....	5	·37
March	24	4·48
April.....	12	2·22
May	9	·93
June	10	2·71
July	19	6·62
August.....	21	4·31
September	11	1·05
October	22	5·20
November	18	2·92
December	18	4·06
Totals	189	37·21

The highest recorded rainfall in 24 hours was 2·98, and the lowest ·01.

Port of Lancaster.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer

OF HEALTH.

TO THE SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE PORT
OF LANCASTER.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

The Marine Population of the Port of Lancaster is about 63. I am again indebted to Captain Russell for his kindness in supplying me with the statistics of the Port.

The total number of trading vessels arriving at the Port during 1895 was 145, having a total tonnage of 19,797 tons, and total hands about 835.

Of these, 124 were engaged in the home trade, and 21 in the foreign trade.

Of the 124 home trade vessels entering the port, all were British, and the total tonnage was 13,583 tons, having hands in number about 607.

The following table shows the number of home trade vessels entering the Port during the past eight years, with their total tonnage and total hands :—

Year.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Hands.
1888	191	14324	800
1889	234	23476	1102
1890	246	24208	980
1891	171	16612	684
1892	129	13307	855
1893	128	13727	640
1894	127	19297	605
1895	124	13583	607

Of the Vessels engaged in the Foreign Trade, the British numbered 10, and 11 were Foreign. Their total tonnage was 6,214 tons, and total hands about 228.

The following table shows the number of Foreign Trade Vessels entering the Port during the last 8 years, with their total tonnage and total hands :—

Year.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Hands.
1888	28	11,557	314
1889	38	13,074	338
1890	42	12,046	377
1891	36	11,094	331
1892	38	11,232	380
1893	23	7,742	236
1894	16	4,894	136
1895	21	6,214	228

These Vessels have been on 53 occasions visited and inspected. No case of infectious disease has been found on them, and any sanitary defects have been pointed out and remedied, but generally they have been found clean and in good order.

The preparations made two years ago to meet any possible importation of Cholera still remain available for use at any time, and everything is in good order.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. PARKER.

March 14th, 1896.

